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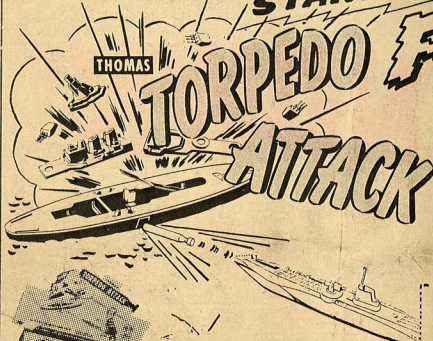
Who
KNOWS WHAT DREAD
HORRORS THE FATHOMLESS
OCEAN DEPTHS MAY HIDE?
HERE'S A PULSE-POUNDING
STORY WHICH TELLS OF
THE KRAKEN--
AN AWFUL BEING WHICH
ROSE FROM OUT OF THE
UNKNOWN ITSELF...
AND HOW SCIENCE
STRUCK BACK
AGAINST THE FEAR-
FUL ONSET!!





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USE COUPON ABOVE

USE COUPON ABOVE

The SHERIFF AND THE WITCH!

"MEBBE YUH THINK BEIN' SHERIFF OF A BACKWOODS-MASSACHUSETTS COUNTY IS JUST A ROUTINE CINCH! MOST OF THE TIME YUH'D BE RIGHT--BUT SOMETIMES, THAR'S SOMETHIN BESIDES TRAFFIC TICKETS AN' LOST COWS! ONE TIME IT WAS SOMETHIN RIGHT OUT OF THIS WORLD--AN' FITTEN TUH CURDLE A MAN'S BLOOD! LET ME TELL YUH ABOUT IT-- AN' ABOUT HOW I GOT TUH BE SHERIFF TOO-- 'CUZ THAT'S PRETTY DURNED IMPORTANT TUH THE STORY!"



"TUH START OFF WITH, I WAS JUST PLAIN, LOWDOWN JAILER OF MARLIN COUNTY! AN' SHERIFF O'ROURKE NEVER LET ME FORGET HOW LOWDOWN!"

--AN WHEN YA GET FINISHED MOPPIN' UP, PAPPY, BE SURE YA CLEAN OUT THE CELLS!"



"IT WAS A HARD LIFE WHEN I REMEMBERED WHAT I **USED** TUH BE AS A YOUNG UN! I'D BEEN TELLIN' ABOUT IT FER YEARS-- JEST COULDN'T GET OUTTA THE HABIT, I GUESS!"

YUH ALL HEARD O' **CUSTER'S LAST STAND**? WAL, I WAS THE ONLY WHITE MAN TUH ESCAPE WITH A WHOLE SCALP! DID MUH BEST TUH SAVE CUSTER, TOO! WHY, I SAID TUH HIM--



HAW-HAW! WOTTA SAP!

SO THEY'RE PLAGUIN' PAPPY HASKINS AGAIN! GUESS THE OLD WINDBAG'S GOT IT COMIN' TO HIM, THOUGH!



TARNATION, WHY CAN'T I LEARN TUH KEEP MUH FOOL MOUTH SHUT? BUT SOMEDAY I'LL SHOW 'EM!-- SHOW 'EM **ALL!** THEY'LL LEARN I'M **SOMEBODY-- I SWEAR IT!**



"I DIDN'T KNOW HOW RIGHT I WAS-- ABOUT **BEIN'** SOMEBODY. THAT IS! FOR THE MILLS O' THE GODS WERE GRINDIN' EVEN THEN-- STARTIN' WITH A MEETIN' O' THE COUNTY POLITICOS--"

ELECTION'S COMIN', O'ROURKE--AND THE FOLKS ARE MIGHTY TIRED OF YOU RUNNIN' UNOPPOSED ALL THE TIME!

BUT IF WE PUT SOMEONE UP AGAINST HIM, THERE'S ALWAYS THE CHANCE HE'LL BE ELECTED!

RELAX, BOYS! WE'LL HAVE AN OPPOSITION CANDIDATE-- THE **PERFECT** CANDIDATE!



PAPPY HASKINS! WE RUN HIM AS AN INDEPENDENT, SEE-- SO THE VOTERS CAN'T SAY WE GOT ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT! AND SINCE THERE'S NO CHANCE OF **ANYONE** EVER VOTIN' FOR HIM-- **JAKE, YOU'RE A SCREAM! WE'LL DO IT!**



"**SURE--EVERYBODY** LAUGHED THEMSELVES SICK OVER IT! I DIDN'T WANT TUH RUN AN' MAKE A FOOL OUTA MUHSELF, BUT SHERIFF O'ROURKE THREATENED TUH FIRE ME IF I DIDN'T! COME ELECTION DAY--"

WOTTA STORM! HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHIN' LIKE **THIS** IN THESE PARTS FER YEARS!



"THE LIGHTNIN' AN' THUNDER HADDA BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED! AN' THE MILLS O' THE GODS --WERE STILL GRINDIN'-- CUZ UP IN THE WILDS O' THE COUNTY, **THIS** WAS HAPPENIN'!"



"BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ANY WAY O' KNOWIN' THIS-- NOR COULD I HAVE DREAMT O' THE AWFUL THING THAT CAME UP OUTA THE BLASTED EARTH UNDER THE OLD DEAD TREE!"



"**NO--ALL I KNEW WAS THAT, AT THE POLLS--**"

LOOKS LIKE THIS AWFUL RAIN'S KEEPING EVERYBODY HOME--EXCEPT **YOU** DIEHARDS!

YOU'RE DURNED RIGHT! THE O'ROURKE VOTERS FIGURE IT'S A WALKOVER AND AREN'T TURNING OUT--AND THAT LEAVES THE FIELD FOR FOLKS LIKE US, WHO'D RATHER HAVE AN OLD JOKE FOR SHERIFF THAN A **CROOK!**



"AND WHEN THE BALLOTS WERE COUNTED--"

OUR NEW SHERIFF-- PAPPY HASKINS!

TWO-GUN PAPPY--WOW!

I'LL MAKE SURE THE OLD FOOL WON'T BE IN OFFICE LONG ENOUGH TO GET THE SEAT OF HIS CHAIR WARM!



"IT WAS FUN, PUTTIN' ON MUH OLD WESTERN GUNBELT AN' WEARIN' A STAR! BUT WITHIN A WEEK, A STRANGE HAPPENIN' SPOILED **TROUBLE!**"

THAT'S RIGHT-- WE FISHED HIM OUTA THE CREEK, DEAD AS A DOOR-NAIL!

A STRANGER... WITH HIS NECK BROKEN BY SOME TERRIBLE STRENGTH-- AN' THAT LOOK O' **FEAR** IN HIS FACE!



AS CORONER OF MARLIN COUNTY, I SAY THE DECEASED MET HIS DEATH OF NATURAL CAUSES!

NATURAL CAUSES, DOC? HMM... I WONDER!



"GUESS I HAD GOOD CAUSE TUH WONDER! 'CUZ A FEW DAYS LATER, THE CREEK YIELDED **ANOTHER** CORPSE--UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES!"

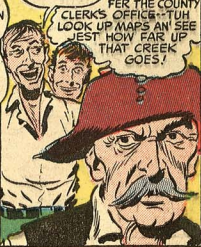
WELL, WELL-- **ANOTHER** PATIENT FROM THE CREEK! **THAT'S** A COINCIDENCE!

YEAH--ON **LOTS** O' COUNTS! NECK BROKEN BY SOMETHIN' STRONGER'N ANY HUMAN--AN' A LOOK ON HIS FACE WHICH THE **DEVIL** HISSLE! MIGHTA PUT THAR! I **STILL** THINK IT WAS NATURAL CAUSES, BUB? OR MEBBE **SUPERNATURAL?**

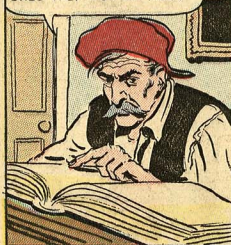


SUPERNATURAL, HE SEZ! GHOSTIES!

MAYBE **GOBLINS**, HUH? **LET 'EM LAUGH!** I'M HEADIN' FER THE COUNTY CLERKS OFFICE--TUH LOOK UP MAPS AN' SEE JEST HOW FAR UP THAT CREEK GOES!



HMM...THE CREEK COMES DOWN THROUGH SOME PRETTY WILD COUNTRY AFORE IT HITS THE TOWN... BUT NONE O' THESE NEW MAPS SHOW IT IN ANY DETAIL, I BETTER LOOK UP THE OLDEST ONES THEY GOT ON FILE!



"I WASN'T PREPARED FER WHAT I **DID** FIND--"

THAT'S INTERESTIN'! MEBBE IT'LL BE A WILD GOOSE CHASE-- BUT I THINK I'LL HEAD UP THAR AND CHECK!

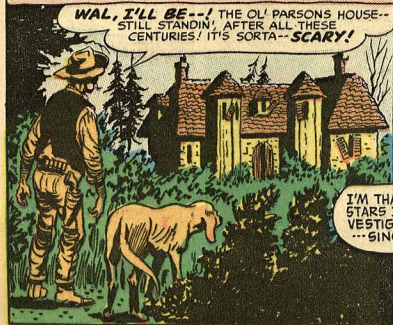


"IT WAS PURTY WILD COUNTRY-- AN' I HAD NO WAY O' KNOWIN' THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MY **FIRST** FIND--"

THIS OL' TREE WENT OVER PRETTY RECENT--MUSTA BEEN DURIN' THAT LIGHTNIN' STORM ON **ELECTION DAY!** FUNNY-- THAT PIT PUTS ME IN MIND OF A **GRAVE!** AN' THAT SMELL-- ALMOST LIKE **BRIMSTONE!**

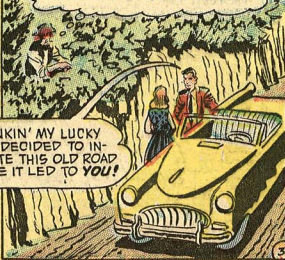


"AN' THEN, MY SECOND FIND--DURNED SURPRISIN', TOO--"



"IT WAS THEN THAT I HEARD--**VOICES!** INVESTIGATIN', I SAW--"

THAT OL' ROAD MUST DATE BACK TUH COLONIAL TIMES-- GUESS IT AIN'T USED MUCH THESE DAYS! WONDER IF **SHE** LIVES AROUND THESE PARTS? SHE'S--**BEAUTIFUL!**

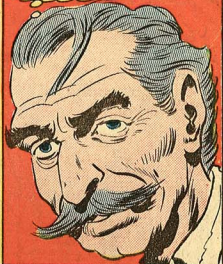


BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW I CAME TO FIND A GORGEOUS GIRL IN A WILD DESOLATE PLACE LIKE THIS!

I--I'VE ALWAYS LIVED HERE! IT'S BEEN LONELY UNTIL-- UNTIL **YOU** CAME ALONG!

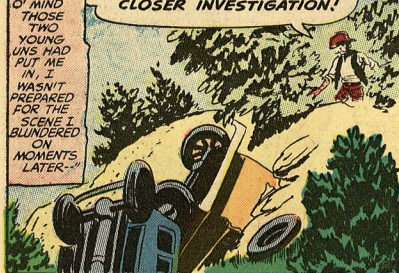


AH, YOUNG LIFE, YOUNG LIFE! THOSE SWEET KIDS-- I CAN SEE I'M ON THE WRONG TRAIL UP **HERE!** MIGHT AS WELL HEAD BACK!



"WHAT WITH THE ROMANTIC FRAME O' MIND THOSE TWO YOUNG UNS HAD PUT ME IN, I WASN'T PREPARED FOR THE SCENE I BLUNDERED ON MOMENTS LATER--"

WHAT THE -- WRECKED CARS! THEY MUSTA BEEN PUSHED INTOH THE GULCH TUH **HIDE 'EM!** TWO CARS-- TWO CORPSES FLOATIN' DOWN THE CREEK-- BY GOSH, THAR'S SOMETHIN' HERE THAT'LL TAKE **CLOSER INVESTIGATION!**



"NEXT DAY, I WAS **SURE** OF IT-- BECAUSE **ANOTHER** BODY FLOATED DOWN THE CREEK INTO TOWN-- THE VERY FELLA I'D SEEN **SPARKIN'** WITH THE GAL!"

STILL THEY KEEP **COMIN'!** HUH-- IF WE HAD A **REAL SHERIFF** IN THIS COUNTY, HE'D GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT!

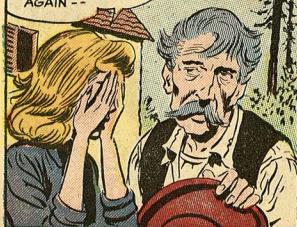
I'M NOT GONNA BE A SUCKER AGAIN!-- I WON'T SHOOT OFF MUH MOUTH TILL I **REALLY** GOT SOMETHIN' TUH GO ON! I'M A-GOIN' UP AN' SEE THAT GAL-- **PRONTO!**



"SO I DID-- FOR WHAT IT WAS WORTH--"

NO, I-- I'D NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE! HE WAS ALL RIGHT WHEN HE LEFT ME! I-- I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF HIM BEING DEAD-- NEVER SEEING HIM AGAIN --

A NICE KID LIKE THAT-- I'M SURE 'NUFF BARKIN' UP THE WRONG TREE!



"I TURNED TUH LEAVE-- AN' HAD BARELY REACHED THE TREES WHEN I HEARD OL' BUTCH, MUH DOG! HE WAS LOOKIN' FER ME-- FRIENDLY- LIKE, HE RAN UP TUH THE GAL--"



"THEN, SUDDENLY, I SAW BUTCH STOP SHORT! HE'D NEVER ACTED **THIS** WAY BEFORE!"





"I MUSTA GONE WILD WHEN I
SAW WHAT HAPPENED TUH PORE OL'
BUTCH! I CAN REMEMBER PULLIN'
MUH GUN--FIRIN'--FIRIN'--BUT
WHAT GOOD WERE BULLETS AGAINST
A SUPERNATURAL MONSTER?"

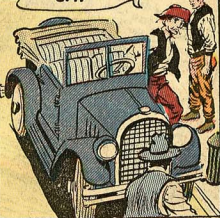


GOT TUH GIT AWAY! IF--
IF THAT THING EVER CAME
AFTER ME, IT'D BE
CURTAINS!



"I JUST MADE IT TUH MUH
CAR, THE PANIC STILL ON ME!
BACK IN TOWN--"

I--I SAW IT WITH MUH
OWN EYES! THE GAL--
SHE CHANGED
INTUH A CAT--
A GIANT BLACK
CAT--



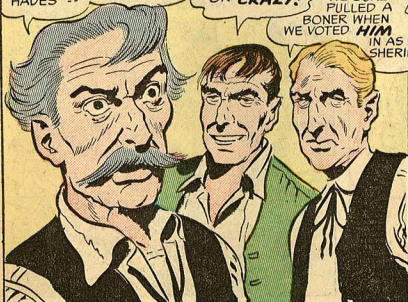
--AN' SHE KILLED MUH
DOG! I SEEN IT ALL --
SEEN THAT THING OUTA
HADES --

HAW-
HAW!
DRUNK--
OR
CRAZY!

I GUESS
IT'S JUST
--AGE!
WE SURE
PULLED A
BONER WHEN
WE VOTED
HIM
IN AS
SHERIFF!

THIS SHOWS HE'S MENTALLY
INCOMPETENT! I'LL CALL A
TOWN MEETING TO OUST
HIM--AND I'LL TAKE OVER
UNTIL THE VOTERS CAN
CONFIRM IT! WHY NOT
ONLY IS HE OUT OF
HIS HEAD, BUT THE
MAN'S AN OLD
COWARD IN THE
BARGAIN!

YOU
CAN'T
TALK TUH
ME LIKE
THAT AN'
GIT AWAY
WITH IT!
I'LL SHOW
YUH--





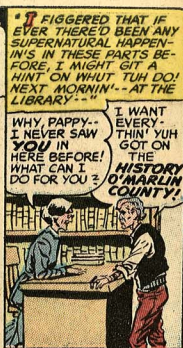
IT AIN'T FORGITTIN' YORE INSULTS O'ROURKE. I'LL GIT EVEN--JUST WAIT!

I'M TIRED OF LEAVING THESE DEATHS TO AN INCOMPETENT OLD MAN TO INVESTIGATE! I'LL GO UP TO THAT HOUSE HE WAS BABBLING ABOUT AND SEE FOR MYSELF!



YESSIR, MR. O'ROURKE--WE'LL GET ACTION NOW! THEY SHOULD NEVER HAVE VOTED YOU OUT AS SHERIFF!

THEY--THEY LAUGHED WHEN I TRIED TUH TELL 'EM ABOUT HER! BUT I'LL PROVE IT YET--AN' SHOW UP O'ROURKE!



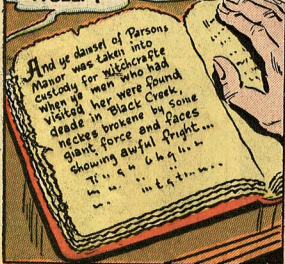
I FIGGERED THAT IF EVER THERE'D BEEN ANY SUPERNATURAL HAPPENIN'S IN THESE PARTS BEFORE, I MIGHT GIT A HINT ON WHUT TUH DO! NEXT MORNIN'--AT THE LIBRARY--

WHY, PAPPY-- I NEVER SAW YOU IN HERE BEFORE! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I WANT EVERYTHIN' YUH GOT ON THE HISTORY O'MARLIN COUNTY!

"BACK THROUGH THE AGES--NOTHIN'! FINALLY--UNDER 1632--"

SUFFERIN' CATAMOUNTS! IT--IT'S LIKE HISTORY-REPEATIN' ITSELF!



And ye daniel of Parsons Manor was taken into custody for witchcraft when ye men who had visited in Black Creek, deade in broken by some neeces broke and faces giant force and faces showing awful fright...

"THE GAL'S DESCRIPTION--EVERYTHING--THE SAME! AS I READ ON--"



MERCY--MERCY! I--I'VE DONE NOTHING--I SWEAR IT!

IT'S TERRIBLE--SHE CAN'T BE GUILTY! HOW COULD ONE SO YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL AND INNOCENT-LOOKING BE A WITCH?



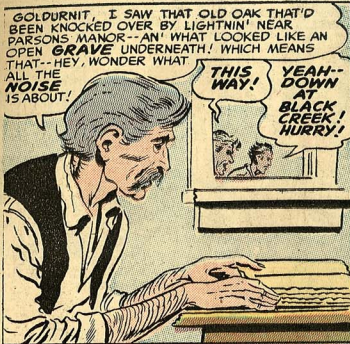
"I COULDN'T BLAME 'EM FER THINKIN' THAT--HADN'T I BEEN TAKEN IN THE SAME WAY? BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT, AS THE FLAMES ROARED ABOUT HER--A STARTLING TRANSFORMATION TOOK PLACE!"

YE'VE GOT ME NOW, CURSE YE! BUT I'LL WAIT MY CHANCE AND RISE--AND KILL, KILL!



I SENTENCED HER TO DEATH--BUT NOW I'M AFRAID! SUPPOSE SHE FULFILLS HER THREAT--AND RISES?

YOU HAVE BUT TO PLANT AN OAK ABOVE HER GRAVE! WHILE IT STANDS, SHE'LL BE A PRISONER BELOW! ONLY IF THE TREE TOPPLES CAN SHE RISE--AND THEN SHE CAN ONLY BE LAID TO REST BY THE SAME MEANS WHICH JUST KILLED HER--FIRE!



GOLDURNIT, I SAW THAT OLD OAK THAT'D BEEN KNOCKED OVER BY LIGHTNIN' NEAR PARSONS MANOR--AN' WHAT LOOKED LIKE AN OPEN GRAVE UNDERNEATH! WHICH MEANS THAT--HEY, WONDER WHAT ALL THE NOISE IS ABOUT!

THIS WAY!

YEAH--DOWN AT BLACK CREEK! HURRY!



HEY, BUB! WHAT'S UP? WHERE'S EVERYONE GOIN'?

BLACK CREEK! ANOTHER BODY JUST FLOATED DOWN!

"THEY ALL FELL SILENT AS I APPROACHED--AN' I SOON LEARNED WHY!"

O'ROURKE THIS TIME, HUH? THAT SAME LOOK O' FRIGHT--NECK BROKEN--THE SAME WAY--AN' YOU FOLKS KNOW HE'D GONE UP TUH OL' PARSONS MANOR TUH FIND OUT WHAT'S WHAT. NOW WILL YUH BELIEVE ME?



"THIS COULDN'T BE HAPPENIN' TUH ME--NOT SHERIFF PAPPY HASKINS! BUT IT WAS--THEY WERE PUTTIN' ME IN THE LOCKUP WHERE I'D ONCE BEEN JAILER--CHARGED WITH MURDER!"

THESE! YOU'RE LUCKY WE'RE LAW-ABIDING FOLKS--OR YOU'D NEVER EVEN HAVE LIVED TO SEE THE INSIDE OF THIS CELL!



BUT--BUT--

"THAT NIGHT--" I'M WORRIED, PAPPY! PUBLIC FEELIN'S RUNNIN' PRETTY HIGH AGAINST YOU--THE O'ROURKE POLITICAL MACHINE'S WHIPPIN' IT UP! I HEAR THERE'S A NECKTIE PARTY ON ITS WAY HERE RIGHT NOW! I CAN'T STOP 'EM ALONE AN' I CAN'T RELEASE YA--I'M ASCARED TOO!

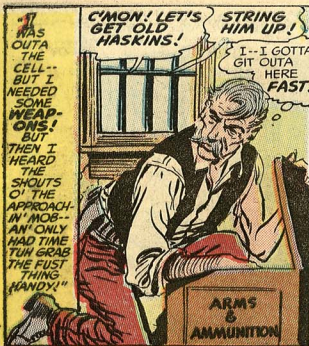


LEAVE ME ALONE HERE, JEFF--THAT'S ALL I ASK!

"THIS WAS ONE TIME WHEN MUH OL' WESTERN TRAININ' CAME IN HANDY! A RIPPED-UP SHIRTSLEEVE KIN MAKE A NOOSE--AN' A NOOSE KIN DO WONDERS!"



MADE IT! I GOT THE KEYS NOW....

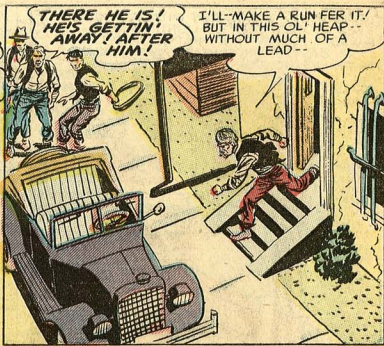


"I WAS OUTA THE CELL-- BUT I NEEDED SOME WEAP-ONS! BUT THEN I HEARD THE SHOUTS O' THE APPROACH- IN' MOB-- AN' ONLY HAD TIME TUH GRAB THE FUST THING HANDY!"

C'MON! LET'S GET OLD HASKINS!

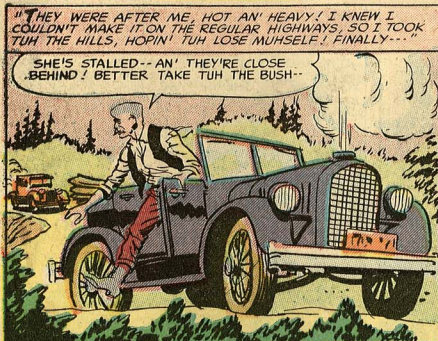
STRING HIM UP!

"I--I GOTTA GIT OUTA HERE FAST!"



THERE HE IS! HE'S GETTIN' AWAY! AFTER HIM!

I'LL--MAKE A RUN FER IT! BUT IN THIS OL' HEAP-- WITHOUT MUCH OF A LEAD--



"THEY WERE AFTER ME, HOT AN' HEAVY! I KNEW I COULDN'T MAKE IT ON THE REGULAR HIGHWAYS, SO I TOOK TUH THE HILLS, HOPIN' TUH LOSE MUHSELF! FINALLY--"

SHE'S STALLED-- AN' THEY'RE CLOSE BEHIND! BETTER TAKE TUH THE BUSH--



"I HADN'T REALIZED WHAR I WAS--UNTIL--"

IT--IT'S OLD PARSONS MANOR--AN THAR'S THE GAL! I-- I CAN'T LET HER SEE ME! BEST HIDE RIGHT WHAR I AM--AN' HOPE THAT NEITHER SHE NOR THE MOB FIND ME!



"HOW RIGHT I WAS! SHE HAD NOBODY TUH PUT ON AN ACT FER NOW! HER FEATURES WERE COLD AND CRUEL, AN' CHILLED ME TUH THE MARROW--FOR THEY SPELLED DEATH!"



"IT WAS JUST THEN THAT THE MOB BURST INTUH THE CLEARIN'!"

KILL THAT MURDERIN' MONSTER!



"--AN' IT WASN'T HARD TUH FIGGER WHAT THE GAL THOUGHT! SHE RECKONED THEY WERE AFTER HER!"

SO YE'VE FOUND ME OUT, HAVE YE? MUCH GOOD MAY IT DO YE!

I DON'T HAFTA ASK ANYONE TUH BELIEVE ME THIS TIME... 'CUZ THE WITNESSES WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT THEY SAW! A BLINDING FLASH AND WHERE THE GAL HAD BEEN..."

SEE ME NOW AS I WAS... AND DIE!

NO! IT...IT CAN'T BE!

YEOW! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! IT'S NOT HUMAN!

RUN! SCUTTLE LIKE CHICKENS... BUT YELL NEVER ESCAPE ME!

YAGH!

AND NOW... FOR THE REST OF YE!

NO... NO!

HELP!

"THEY WERE TRAPPED, DOOMED... ALL THESE FELLAS I'D KNOWN SO LONG... AN' I COULDN'T LET 'EM GO TO THEIR DEATHS WITHOUT DOIN' SOMETHIN'! MY FINGERS CLOSED AROUND AN OBJECT... THE THING I'D GRABBED BACK AT THE JAIL ARSENAL..."

IT...IT'S A GRENADE! NO USE THINKIN' I'LL STOP 'ER WHEN MUH GUNSHOTS WOULDN'T... BUT IT'S ALL I GOT!

SO I HURLED IT, THAT LAST FORLORN HOPE... HURLED IT WITH A PRAYER! THAR WAS A STRANGE, COUGHIN' SORT OF EXPLOSION..."

POUF!

"...AND THEN I SAW A SIGHT I'LL REMEMBER FOREVER!"

ARGH! THE FIRE! THE FIRE!

"WHAT THE OL' BOOK HAD SAID CAME BACK TUH ME... 'BOUT HER BEIN' VULNERABLE ONLY TUH FLAMES... AN' I REALIZED THEN THAT WHAT I'D THROWN WAS AN INCENDIARY GRENADE!"

"WAL... THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS! LIKE I SAID AT THE BEGINNIN', BEIN' SHERIFF OF A BACKWOODS MASSACHUSETTS COUNTY ISN'T ALWAYS A ROUTINE CINCH! BUT BELIEVE YUH ME... IT WAS A LOT EASIER FOR PAPPY HASKINS FROM THEN ON..."

YUH ALL HEARD O' CUSTER'S LAST STAND? WAL, I WAS THE ONLY WHITE MAN TUH ESCAPE WITH A WHOLE SCALP! DID MUH BEST TUH SAVE CUSTER, TOO! WHY I SAID TUH HIM...

IT'S TRUE, EVERY WORD OF IT! WHO WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE BEST GOLDURN SHERIFF THAT MARLIN COUNTY EVER HAD!

The End

THE *STROKE* of MIDNIGHT

KEN MARTIN cursed himself for being a romanticist. Why did he always feel that each antique shop would produce the find...the invaluable old curio which collectors always dreamed of? Why, when all he had to show for the years of his quest were a group of ordinary objects which had little more than mere age to commend them! And there was little chance that he'd find anything *here*, for this was hardly even an antique shop. Call it curio mart, junk shop...an establishment crowded from floor to ceiling with as motley a collection of jimcrack merchandise as ever he had seen. He was about to leave in sheer disgust when he saw it and stopped short, his breath catching in his throat.

Covered with dust and crowded far back on the shelf, it was as strange a clock as Ken had seen. It was wrought by the hand of a master craftsman centuries dead...a craftsman whose weird imagination had equaled the deftness of his hand. For surely no such creation as this had ever been seen! The face of the clock was a masterpiece of jeweled inlay. Its hands were spidery golden claws that seemed to reach greedily for prey...and where the numeral twelve should have been, there appeared a tiny black replica of a human skull. But what created the frightening weirdness which the thing seemed to exude was the awful golden snake which formed the clock's case, winding about it with a sinuousness which seemed almost alive. It held it tight in a gruesome metal clutch, while its jeweled pinpoint eyes blazed back at Ken with a hatred which made him recoil.

There was no doubt about it...he had to have the strange clock! But the dealer showed a strange reluctance about the transaction...a reluctance which ill befitted the strangely small price he set upon it. It wasn't that he didn't want to get rid of it, he assured Ken...he did, and desperately! But there was a legend about the piece...an ancient legend of unexplained and violent death with enough to substantiate it so that the dealer hesitated to pass it on. But Ken Martin laughed at all such nonsense, and said as much. He finally secured the coveted clock, but only upon his solemn

promise that never would he operate it.

It was a promise that was fast forgotten. For Ken soon found that it wasn't enough just to look at his new acquisition...he had to hear its tick and chimes and ascertain how well it ran after its many silent years. It was surprising with what ease it responded to the key, and how accurately the clawlike hands moved over the old dial. And the chimes...so mellowly musical! How ridiculous to fear this fine old instrument, Ken thought...until, suddenly, his eyes met those of the golden snake which enclosed the clock in its glittering coils. Was he *imagining* things...or did the beady jewels seem to mock him? Nonsense...he was a practical man, and as such should be thinking of bed now, for such thoughts indicated clearly that he must be overtired.

Ken's sleep was a deep one, and at first he didn't realize what had awakened him. Then he knew...it was the bonging of the clock. But what had happened to those mellow tones? What he heard was deep, sepulchral...like the tolling of funeral bells. Slowly he counted. Twelve...*midnight!* A strange lassitude, mingled with a persistent dread, seemed to numb and paralyze him. He couldn't move. Only his eyes seemed capable of motion...and they were drawn, as if by some awful compulsion, towards the clock near his bed. Nonsense, of course...it seemed to be *moving*. Gradually, he became aware that it wasn't the clock itself that was in motion, but something *around* the clock. Suddenly he gasped...because he knew what it was! *The snake...that golden snake!* Uncoiling, writhing, swelling to huge size! It was a monstrous serpent now, swaying toward him, its beady and triumphant eyes fixed triumphantly and hypnotically upon him! And now it was upon him, its awful coils squeezing out his life, its cruel fangs rending, tearing!

It was all done now. The ticking of the clock ceased. How beautiful and harmless it looked now, girded by the small, lovely golden snake. Now *everything* was as it had been again...save for the lifeless corpse which lay upon the bed.

THE WORLD OF ART WAS STAGGERED BY THE AMAZING ABILITY OF THE RISING YOUNG SCULPTRESS, MADY GEORGE --- AND YET MEN SHUDDERED IN HORROR AT THE MARBLE MONSTROSITIES SHE CREATED! FROM WHENCE CAME HER UNCANNY GIFT FOR DEPICTING FEAR? FROM WHAT UNHOLY SOURCE HAD SHE ACQUIRED HER UNSPEAKABLE ---

TALENT for TERROR!



ONE EVENING, AT A MUSTY STUDIO IN THE BOHEMIAN QUARTER OF THE CITY ---

MISS MADY GEORGE? I'M RAY KENT OF THE EVENING SENTINEL!

A REPORTER? BUT I'M BUSY PREPARING FOR MY NEXT EXHIBITION!

THAT'S JUST WHY I WANT TO INTERVIEW YOU, MISS GEORGE! THE WHOLE ART WORLD IS AGOG OVER YOUR SCULPTURES --- AND NOT MERELY BECAUSE OF YOUR TALENT!

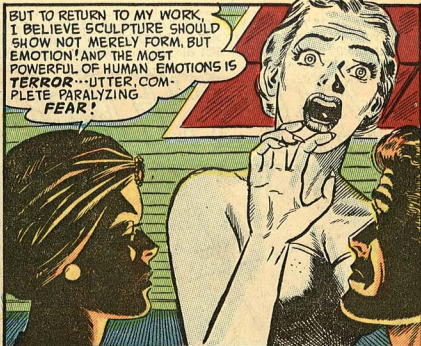
IT'S THE **STYLE** OF YOUR WORK THAT INTRIGUES EVERYONE! EACH OF YOUR SCULPTURES IS A CARVING OF SOMEONE CAUGHT IN AN ATTITUDE OF **UTTER FEAR AND TERROR!**





TELL ME, WHAT MAKES YOU DO WORK OF THAT KIND... A YOUNG, PRETTY GIRL LIKE **YOU?**

FLATTERY FROM SUCH A CHARMING YOUNG MAN, IS A COMPLIMENT INDEED!



BUT TO RETURN TO MY WORK, I BELIEVE SCULPTURE SHOULD SHOW NOT MERELY FORM, BUT EMOTION! AND THE MOST POWERFUL OF HUMAN EMOTIONS IS **TERROR**... UTTER, COMPLETE PARALYZING **FEAR!**



YOU SURE HAVE MANAGED TO PUT THAT FEELING INTO YOUR CREATIONS! ISN'T IT DIFFICULT TO GET YOUR MODELS TO **HOLD** SUCH POSES?

I HAVE METHODS OF MY OWN... METHODS I'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT!



SUDDENLY...

SAY, THAT FACE! THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT IT... EVEN THOUGH THE FEATURES ARE DISTORTED BY FEAR AND TERROR!



ISN'T THAT A STATUE OF PETER CLAGSON, THE DIRECTOR OF THE UPTOWN MUSEUM? THE ONE WHO DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE A FEW WEEKS AGO?

WHY, YES! PETER WAS A FRIEND OF MINE! I TALKED HIM INTO MODELING FOR ME JUST BEFORE HE... **ER... VANISHED!**



A PITY! PETER WAS **SUCH** A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN!



SPEAKING OF HANDSOME YOUNG MEN, I WONDER IF **YOU'D** MIND POSING FOR ME SOMETIMES, MR. KENT!

WHO, **ME?**



NO. THANKS! THOSE STATUES OF YOURS ARE ENOUGH TO GIVE ME THE GALLOPING HORRORS!

COME NOW, MR. KENT, YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF LITTLE MADY... OR ARE YOU?



AFRAID OF YOU? WHY, I THINK YOU'RE TERRIFIC! AS A MATTER OF FACT, I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE DOING TO-NIGHT, MISS GEORGE!

HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU? I'M HAVING DINNER WITH A PERFECTLY DELIGHTFUL YOUNG MAN CALLED RAY KENT!

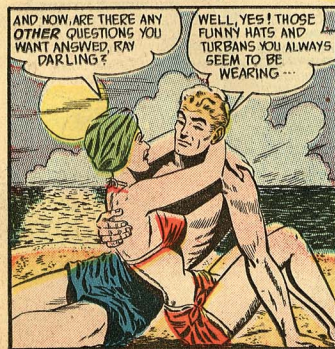
AND SO IT BEGAN! IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, RAY KENT AND MADY GEORGE BECAME CONSTANT COMPANIONS! AND WITH EACH PASSING DAY, RAY FOUND HIMSELF DRAWN EVER CLOSER TO THE TALENTED, MYSTERIOUS, BEAUTIFUL MADY GEORGE!

AND YET, DESPITE THEIR GROWING INTIMACY, THERE WERE CERTAIN LITTLE ODDITIES ABOUT MADY THAT STAYED UNEXPLAINED, QUESTIONS THAT SEEMED ALWAYS TO REMAIN UNANSWERED...



MADY, WHY IS IT I NEVER FIND YOU AT WORK ON YOUR STATUES? AND I'VE NEVER YET SEEN ANY SCULPTOR'S TOOLS AROUND YOUR STUDIO!

LET'S SAY THAT I HAVE MY OWN PERSONAL WAYS OF WORKING... TRADE SECRETS THAT I'D RATHER NOT DIVULGE!



AND NOW, ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS YOU WANT ANSWERED, RAY DARLING?

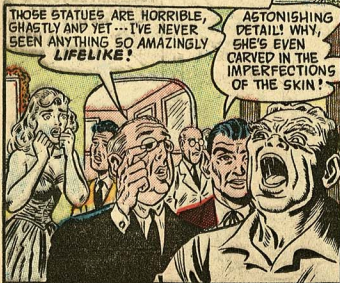
WELL, YES! THOSE FUNNY HATS AND TURBANS YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO BE WEARING...

WHEREVER YOU GO, WHAT-EVER WE'RE DOING, YOU ALWAYS KEEP YOUR HAIR COVERED! WHY, AT THIS RATE, I'LL NEVER KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE A BLONDE OR A BRUNETTE!

YOU SWEET, CURIOUS BOY! I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO DISAPPOINTED WHEN YOU DO FIND OUT! BUT IT WON'T BE NOW!



RAY'S QUESTIONS WERE FORGOTTEN IN THE RUSH AND BUSTLE OF THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED. AS ANOTHER OF MADY'S EXHIBITS OPENED! AS USUAL, THE SHOW CAUSED A TREMENDOUS FUROR ---



THOSE STATUES ARE HORRIBLE, GHASTLY AND YET... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO AMAZINGLY **LIFELIKE!**

ASTONISHING DETAIL! WHY, SHE'S EVEN CARVED IN THE IMPERFECTIONS OF THE SKIN!

FASCINATING EXHIBIT, ISN'T IT, SHELTON?

SICKENING IS THE WORD I'D USE! PARTICULARLY THIS PIECE! HMM... THERE'S A GHASTLY RESEMBLANCE TO SOMEONE I KNEW!



IVY RANDOLPH WAS HER NAME... A MODEL! SHE DISAPPEARED ABOUT A YEAR AGO! DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT, LIKE THAT!

DISAPPEARED, YOU SAY?

AND NOW TO SEE HER LIKE THAT... WELL, I TELL YOU, IT'S ENOUGH TO GIVE A MAN THE CREEPS!

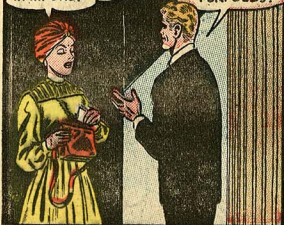
EXCUSE ME, SHELTON! THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST DO!



A STRANGE, WILD PREMONITION HAD SEIZED RAY KENT! A MOMENT LATER, IN A CORNER OF THE EXHIBITION HALL ---

PHOTOS OF MY STATUES? WHY, YES, I HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME HERE IN MY BAG!

THANK YOU, MADY! I'LL JUST TAKE THESE TEMPORARILY, FOR PUBLICITY PURPOSES!



THAT AFTERNOON FOUND RAY KENT WORKING IN THE MORGUE OF THE EVENING SENTINEL! AND WITH EACH ITEM THAT HE PLUCKED FROM THE FILES, HIS FACE GREW GRIMMER!

IT'S... IT'S **UNBELIEVABLE!** THAT MAKES SIX OF MADY'S STATUES I'VE TRACED SO FAR! AND THE MODELS FOR ALL OF THEM HAVE **VANISHED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!**



... AND THERE'S NO CLUE TO THEIR DISAPPEARANCE... EXCEPT FOR A **HORRIBLE, DISTORTED STATUE!** MADY MUST HAVE SOME EXPLANATION FOR THIS!



SWIFTLY, RAY HURRIED ACROSS THE TOWN TO THE STUDIO...

MADY, THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS I HAVE TO ASK YOU... ABOUT THOSE **STATUES!**

DEAR RAY! SO YOU GROW CURIOUS... LIKE THE PRO-VERBIAL CAT!



HE SHOULD HAVE STOPPED THEN! HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN WARNED BY THE THIN, COLD EDGE OF HER VOICE! BUT...

I'VE BEEN CHECKING ON THOSE STATUES OF YOURS! I'VE COVERED SIX OF THEM SO FAR... AND **EACH STATUE WAS MODELED BY A PERSON WHO DISAPPEARED IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD!**

AND YOU SUSPECT ME, IS THAT IT?



I THOUGHT WE WERE OLD FRIENDS, RAY! I'D EVEN BEGUN TO HOPE THAT SOME DAY, YOU AND I MIGHT... WELL...

MADY... YOU **KNOW** HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU! BUT THERE ARE SO MANY STRANGE FACTS ABOUT YOUR WORK... ABOUT YOURSELF... THAT YOU'VE LEFT UN-EXPLAINED!

FOR INSTANCE, WHEN I ASKED YOU WHY I NEVER SAW YOU AT WORK... WHY I NEVER SAW ANY SCULPTOR'S TOOLS LYING ABOUT THE STUDIO... YOU NEVER GAVE ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER!

AND YOUR HAIR... WHY IS IT YOU ALWAYS KEEP IT BOUND UP LIKE THAT? **WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO HIDE, MADY?**

IS **THAT** WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, RAY DARLING? WELL, I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME TO SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY! BUT REMEMBER... **YOU ASKED FOR IT!**



FOR A MOMENT HER LONG, SLENDER FINGERS TOYED WITH THE KERCHIEF AND THEN... SUDDENLY, HORRIBLY...



MADY!
**NO!
NO!**

NOT MADY! YOU KNOW ME FAR TOO WELL **NOW** TO CALL ME **THAT!**



CALL ME RATHER... **MEDUSA!** REMEMBER? MEDUSA THE GORGON! AT THE SIGHT OF HER HAIR, MORTALS WERE FROZEN IN FEAR, TURNED INTO STONE! THE WHOLE WORLD REMEMBERS MEDUSA AS AN ANCIENT GREEK LEGEND...



... BUT IT'S **NOT** A LEGEND! I'M REAL, VERY REAL... **AREN'T I,** RAY DEAR?



HE WOULD HAVE RUN THEN... HE WOULD HAVE FLED FROM THAT PLACE SCREAMING WITH HORROR... BUT SUDDENLY, HE WAS ROOTED WHERE HE STOOD!

WHAT IS IT, MY DEAR, SWEET, CURIOUS DARLING? ARE YOU ILL? DO YOU FEEL AS IF YOUR LEGS WERE TURNING TO **STONE?**



... BECAUSE THEY **HAVE,** RAY DARLING! IT'S **ALWAYS** THAT WAY! FIRST THE LEGS, THEN THE TORSO! AN THEN, AS THE LAST FRIGHTENED LIGHT FADES FROM THE EYES, EVEN THE **HEAD IS TURNED TO STONE!**



AND SO NOW, RAY DARLING, ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED! YOU KNOW THE SECRET OF MY TALENT... AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE OTHERS!



POOR RAY! HE WAS SO HANDSOME, AND WE WERE **SUCH** GOOD FRIENDS! A PITY HE DIDN'T LEAVE IT AT THAT!



OH, WELL! AT LEAST I HAVE **ANOTHER** PRIZE EXHIBIT FOR MY NEXT SHOW!



THE END!



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EDITOR



SINCE the appearance of "*Adventures Into the Unknown*" several years ago, we have published more than 30 million copies! Rather impressive, wouldn't you say?

Looking at the facts and figures fills us with a sense of responsibility. "*Adventures Into the Unknown*" has been a wildfire seller right from the beginning, and a lot of time and money have been spent in figuring out precisely the nationwide appeal of this great magazine. Well, there's nothing mysterious about it!

The secret is *authenticity*, and the painstaking attention to all details of story and art. By dint of constant effort we have assembled as fine a staff of writers, artists, and researchers as exists in the country, and their orders are to spare nothing in producing the most exciting yarns possible, for nothing but the best can meet the standards we have adhered to from the beginning.

Finally, there is our editorial policy, shaped largely by *you*, our loyal readers, who insist that stories never deal with mere senseless terror, having neither point nor meaning, and designed only to thrill with cheap tricks. This we have never done.

Consider our present issue. "*The Sheriff and The Witch!*" does contain a fearful and eerie wallop, but threaded within as suspenseful a story as you've read in ages. "*Talent for Terror!*" is a masterpiece of awful menace, which builds to an almost unbearably tingling climax. Recommended for midnight read-

ing! As for "*The Kraken*," well, we won't be giving away any secrets in telling you that it piles tenseful gasps on spellbinding action. In short, a superlative thriller! "*The Eternal Fires!*" takes us on a grim adventure in dealing with a guilt-laden mortal who tried to outwit *destiny*—don't miss it!

We said above that our editorial policy is *your* affair. Tell us what you like, and what you *don't* like, as thousands of your fellow fans have done. Just write to The Editor, "*Adventures Into the Unknown*," 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y. And now, let's dip into our mailbox:

"Dear Editor:—

All of my friends, including myself, read '*Adventures Into the Unknown*' every month. No other magazine can compete with it. Let's have more gripping stories about vampires and werewolves. Keep up the good work.

—C. Pugh, Cherryvale, Kansas."

"Dear Editor:—

I am a great fan of supernatural comics and I think that '*Adventures Into the Unknown*' is wonderful. I live in Kolin, Germany, and I wonder if you could send me the comics? I do hope so, because I am just crazy about them.

—Elaine Du Plessis, Kolin, Germany."

"Dear Editor:—

I enjoy '*Adventures Into the Unknown*' tremendously. I've bought many issues and every one has been excellent. I've never read better stories than '*The Plant That Lived*' and '*The Revolt of the Genie!*' Keep them coming to your loyal fan. . . .

—Eddie Conn, Oakland, Calif."



DO THE DISTANT DEPTHS OF THE SURGING OCEAN HIDE A MONSTER SO WEIRD AS TO CONFOUND THE SENSES OF MAN? SCIENCE LAUGHS AT SUCH LEGENDS--BUT BEFORE YOU DECIDE, READER, SCAN THE SPECTRAL STORY OF THE BELLAMY EXPEDITION--AND MEET THE EERIE KRAKEN!

MIDNIGHT... THE MARINE MUSEUM... CURATOR BELLAMY DISCUSSES A NEW PROJECT WITH HIS DAUGHTER--

WE'LL USE THE LATEST DEEP-SEA TELEVISION MOTION PICTURE EQUIPMENT--AND THIS NEW BATHYSOPHRE I'VE DESIGNED SHOULD ENABLE US TO REACH ANY DEPTH! AND NOW THAT WE'VE JUST DECIDED **WHERE** OUR EXPEDITION WILL EXPLORE--

WAIT, DAD! THERE'S SOMEBODY AT THE DOOR!

RIDICULOUS, MONA! THE MUSEUM'S BEEN LOCKED FOR HOURS!

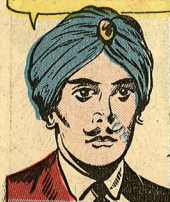
TRUE--THEREFORE I MUST ASK THAT YOU PARDON MY INTRUSION, DR. BELLAMY! I'VE COME TO OFFER MY SERVICES--BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO EXPLORE **KEELING DEEP!**

THIS--THIS IS **INCREDIBLE--** YOU **COULDN'T** KNOW! WHY, I JUST DECIDED UPON THAT A FEW MOMENTS AGO!!

WHO--WHO ARE YOU?



I AM NAJA DEVA, RECENTLY LEADER OF A HOLY PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF THE SEVEN SAGES--A PILGRIMAGE WHICH CAME TO A TRAGIC END IN THE WATERS OVERLYING **KEELING DEEP!** FOR OUT OF THOSE DEPTHS ROSE THE **KRAKEN--THE HORRIBLE KRAKEN!**



THE KRAKEN! YOU'RE BEING **FANTASTIC**, YOUNG MAN! THE KRAKEN'S A **LEGEND**--IT EXISTED SOLELY IN THE IMAGINATIONS OF SUPERSTITIOUS MARINERS! MATTER OF FACT, HERE'S A PICTURE OF IT--AN OLD WOOD CUT WHICH DEPICTS IT AS A CREATURE SO UTTERLY RIDICULOUS--



BR-RRR! LOOK AT THE **SIZE** OF IT--WHY ITS TENTACLES ARE TAKING IN THE ENTIRE SHIP! WHAT A **MONSTER!**

EXACTLY--A MONSTER WHICH **EXISTS! I KNOW**--FOR I HAVE MET HER FACE TO FACE! PICTURE A FACE GIGANTIC, BEAUTIFUL--ON A HUGE AND MONSTROUS BODY WHICH REEKS OF **EVIL--AND DEATH!** THAT IS THE **KRAKEN--THE GIANT SEA DEVIL THAT FEEDS UPON HUMAN SOULS!**



FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, THE THING HAS RISEN FROM THE FURTHEST REACHES OF THE SEA--THE **KEELING DEEP**--TO PREY UPON HUMANS! AND NOW IT HAS SEIZED THE SOULS OF THE INNOCENT PILGRIMS WHO FOLLOWED ME! I CANNOT REST UNTIL IT IS DESTROYED! DR. BELLAMY, YOUR BATHYSPHERE IS THE ONLY DEVICE WHICH CAN ENABLE ME TO ACHIEVE **VENGEANCE!**

THIS IS A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION, YOUNG MAN! TO JOIN IT REQUIRES MORE THAN A FAR-FETCHED STORY AND THE LUST FOR AN INSANE REVENGE! **GOODBYE!**

I--I CAN'T SUCCEED WITHOUT YOU! **YOU** MUST FAIL, TOO--BECAUSE YOU PLAN TO PENETRATE THE DEPTHS WHICH ARE THE KRAKEN'S HOME! AND THAT MEANS--**DEATH!**

WAIT, DAD -- **PLEASE!** I KNOW THAT WHAT HE SAYS SOUNDS RIDICULOUS--BUT--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING **CONVINCING** ABOUT IT ALL! IT WON'T HURT TO TAKE HIM ON--HE SEEMS INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO BE HELPFUL TO US!



WEEKS LATER ...

AREN'T YOU GLAD WE DIDN'T TURN NAJA DOWN, DAD? HE'S WORKED LIKE A BEAVER--AND THOSE MECHANICAL ARMS HE DEvised FOR THE BATHYSPHERE MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL IN MANY WAYS! AND HE HASN'T MENTIONED THE KRAKEN ONCE SINCE THAT NIGHT! I--I LIKE HIM VERY MUCH--AND I THINK HE LIKES ME---

SO I NOTICED!-- WHICH IS WHY WE'RE **SAILING WITHOUT HIM!**

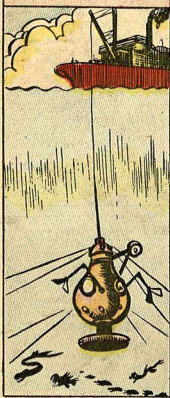


KEELING DEEP! A VALLEY IN THE FLOOR OF THE INDIAN OCEAN--MILES BENEATH THE SURFACE! AND FOR THE FIRST TIME **SCIENCE**, SCORNING SUPERSTITION, PLANNED TO CHALLENGE THE STRANGE SECRETS OF THE DEPTHS! AN ULTRA-MODERN BATHYSPHERE SWUNG POISED FOR ACTION AS DR. BELLAMY READIED FOR A TEST DIVE--

I'VE HOOKED UP THE SPHERE AND IT'LL BE RECORDED ON FILM FOR THE WHOLE WORLD TO SEE, DAD! SO LONG--AND **GOOD LUCK!**



SLOWLY, THE CABLE UN-REELS--AND DOWN, DOWN INTO DEPTHS NEVER BEFORE SEEN BY HUMAN EYES THE BATHYS-PHERE DE-SCENDS! THROUGH EVER-DARKENING WATERS--INTO A WEIRD, SILENT WORLD---



EVERYTHING GOING WELL, MONA--THIS IS **FASCINATING!** LOOK-- THERE'S A SABRE-TOOTH VIPER FISH SWALLOWING A SCARLET SHRIMP! ARE YOU GETTING IT ON FILM?



SURE THING, DAD! IT'S JUST LIKE BEING DOWN THERE WITH YOU!

JUST THEN, A STEALTHY MOVEMENT--AND THE DOCTOR REALIZES HE IS NOT ALONE!

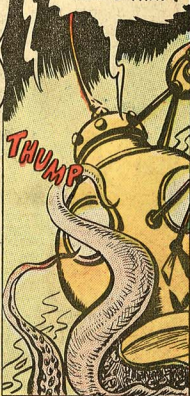
NAJA-- YOU! HOW--

YES, DOCTOR, ME--A STOW-AWAY HERE SINCE I FIRST SUSPECTED YOU WOULD TRY TO LEAVE ME BEHIND! YOU'RE GOING TO **NEED ME**-- NOW THAT YOU'VE VENTURED INTO THE VERY LAIR OF THE **KRAKEN!**



I HEAR VOICES, DADDY! WHOM ARE YOU TALKING TO?

NAJA--HE'S HERE! CAN'T YOU SEE HIM ON YOUR TELEVISION SCREEN? I-- **WHAT'S THAT?**



THE SUDDEN SHOCK OF A VAST IMPACT--AND THE SPHERE IS SHAKEN, BUFFETED LIKE A CHILD'S TOY!

NO--IT CAN'T BE-- NOTHING LIVING COULD HAVE A TENTACLE THAT SIZE! IT'S GOT US-- **OHhhh!** MY HEAD!...

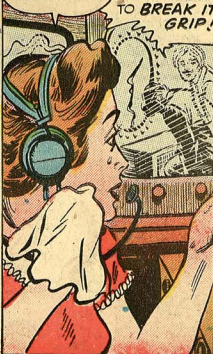
THE DOCTOR'S HURT! **PULL US UP-- QUICK!**



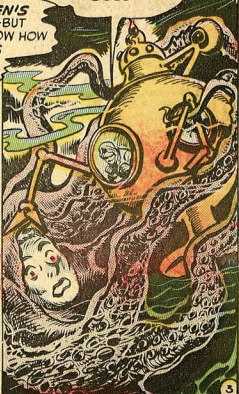
NAJA--WHY CAN'T I SEE YOU? CAN YOU HEAR ME? WE'RE TRYING TO HAUL YOU UP--BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME TERRIBLE WEIGHT DRAGGING ON THE BATHYS-PHERE! I'M AFRAID THE CABLE WILL SNAP---

STEADY, MONA!

THE **KRAKEN'S** GOT US--BUT I THINK I KNOW HOW TO **BREAK ITS GRIP!**



COME ON, KRAKEN-- **STRIKE AGAIN!** THAT'S WHY I BUILT THE MECHANICAL ARMS THAT ARE WAITING FOR YOU--**ARMED WITH RAZOR-SHARP SHEARS!** HERE GOES--



THE SHEARS SNAP--AN AWFUL SCREAM BUBBLES THROUGH THE DEEP! AND WHEN THE BATHYSPHERE SURFACES--

WILLYA LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT THING! IT WAS STILL CLINGIN' TO THE SPHERE WHEN IT CAME UP! I'D HATE TA MEET THE MONSTER IT CAME FROM!

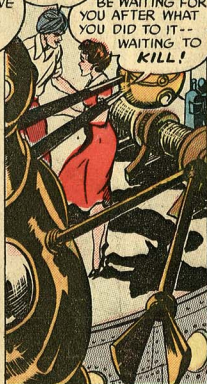
DAD'S BADLY HURT, NAJA! I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO CALL OFF THE EXPEDITION!

HE WOULDN'T WANT THAT, MONA! HE'S SET ON GETTING PICTURES OF KEELING DEEP--AND I'M NOT AFRAID TO GO DOWN THERE AGAIN AND GET THEM FOR HIM!

YOU MEAN--YOU'D RISK THE **KRAKEN** AGAIN? IT'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO IT--WAITING TO **KILL!**

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT I, TOO, THIRST FOR REVENGE? PLEASE, MONA--SAY I CAN GO!

HOW CAN I--REFUSE YOU?



OKAY--WE'VE ATTACHED THAT TANK TO THE SPHERE AS YOU ORDERED! GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU FOR **NERVE**, YOUNG FELLA!

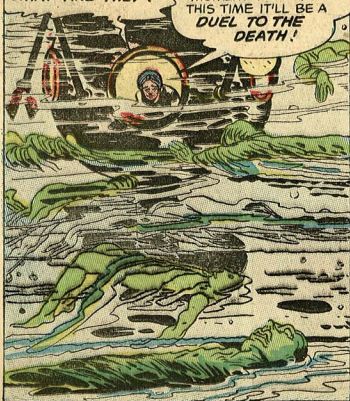
THANKS, CAPTAIN! LET'S GO!



ONCE AGAIN, DOWN--DOWN--THROUGH HORROR-LADEN WATERS--

WE'RE PICKING UP EVERYTHING PERFECTLY IN THE TELEVISOR, NAJA! BUT THOSE AWFUL SHAPES FLOATING PAST YOU--WHAT ARE THEY?

THE DEAD--MY COMRADES OF THE PILGRIMAGE WHOSE SOULS THE KRAKEN SEIZED! IT SHOULD BE UPON ME ANY MOMENT NOW--AND THIS TIME IT'LL BE A **DUEL TO THE DEATH!**



WHAT'S HAPPENING, MONA? I--I'M STRONG ENOUGH TO WATCH--

NOTHING--YET!--WHAT'S THAT TANK ATTACHED TO THE SPHERE, CAPTAIN?

CORROSIVE ACID-- WITH A NOZZLE ACTUATED FROM WITHIN! SAY! ISN'T THAT A **TENTACLE** ON THE SCREEN?



IT--IT IS--IT'S THE KRAKEN!
IT'S GOT THE BATHYSPHERE
IN ITS GRIP--AND IT'S
CRUSHING IT!

THINK YOU'VE GOT ME,
DON'T YOU--THAT YOU'LL
TAKE MY SOUL AS YOU DID
MY FOLLOWERS! WELL,
LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN
SURVIVE THIS!

JETS OF ACID!-- BURN-
ING INTO THE MONSTER!
I--I CAN'T LOOK!--

IT'S RECOILING--
LOOSENING ITS
HOLD! CAPTAIN--
ORDER THE
SPHERE
HAULED UP!

I'M RISING! FOLLOW,
KRAKEN-- FOLLOW IF
YOU DARE! I'VE
BEATEN YOU!

HA HA HA HA HA

VENGEANCE!
VENGEANCE
FOR THE DEAD!

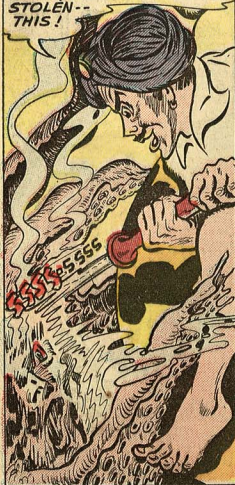
OH,
DADDY,
HE'S--

--MAD? YES, MONA
--I WAS AFRAID OF
THAT!

SO YOU'RE NOT THROUGH
YET, EH, KRAKEN? THEN
COME CLOSER--
CLOSER!--

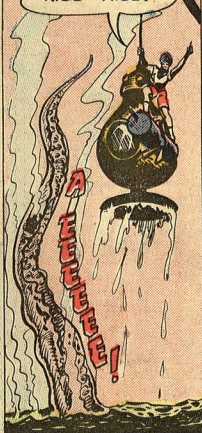
HE--HE'S GOT THE PORT OPEN,
DOCTOR! AND HE SEEMS TO
BE TRYING TO GET AT THAT
THING!

FOR THE LIVES YOU'VE
TAKEN, THE SOULS YOU'VE
STOLEN--
THIS!



AS AN AWFUL SCREAM RENDS
THE AIR FOR MILES AROUND--

IT'S GONE--GONE! YOUR
SOULS ARE FREE OF THE
'KRAKEN, O COMRADES!
RISE--RISE!



BUT FIRST SOMETHING ELSE
ROSE--A BURNING TENTACLE
EXTENDED IN A FINAL SPASM OF
AGONY! AS IT CLOSED UPON THE
CABLE IN ONE LAST, DYING
SURGE--



AND THE BATHYSPPHERE, CARRY-
ING NAJA, PLUMMETED FAR
INTO KEELING DEEP! SEARCH
WAS FRUITLESS, SO THE SHIP
DEPARTED! THERE WAS NO WAY
OF SEEING THE SPECTRAL FIG-
URES WHICH ROSE IN ITS WAKE!
THE DEAD--THE DEAD WHO RE-
GAINED THEIR SOULS--LED BY A
STRANGE, BRAVE LEADER---



AND BACK HOME--

WE BOTH
THOUGHT NAJA MAD--**BUT I**
WONDER! THE STRANGE
THINGS HE SEEMED TO
KNOW-- THE KRAKEN
AND HOW HE OVERCAME
IT--

YOU'RE
RIGHT,
MONA--
THAT
WAS NO
MADMAN!
AS FOR
WHAT HE WAS--

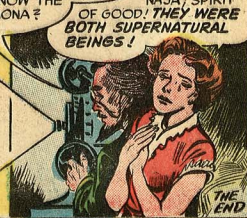
★ I THINK YOU'LL
FIND THE PICTURES
WE TOOK HELPFUL,
IN A
SENSE!



LOOK! THE FILM RECORDS EVERY STRANGE!
DENIZEN OF THE DEEP-- EVERYTHING WE SAW
-- WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS! **THE KRAKEN--**
AND **NAJA!** DO YOU KNOW THE
ANSWER NOW, MONA?

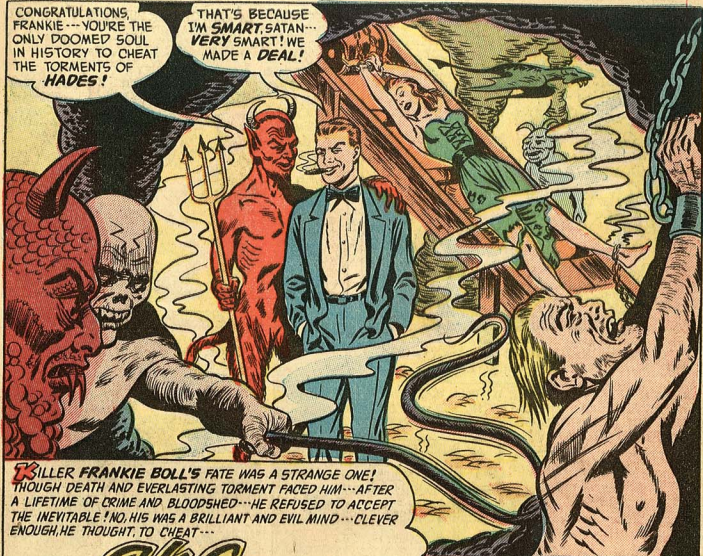
THE KRAKEN--
SPIRIT OF
EVIL-- AND
NAJA, SPIRIT

OF GOOD! THEY WERE
BOTH SUPERNATURAL
BEINGS!



CONGRATULATIONS, FRANKIE... YOU'RE THE ONLY DOOMED SOUL IN HISTORY TO CHEAT THE TORMENTS OF HADES!

THAT'S BECAUSE I'M SMART, SATAN... VERY SMART! WE MADE A DEAL!



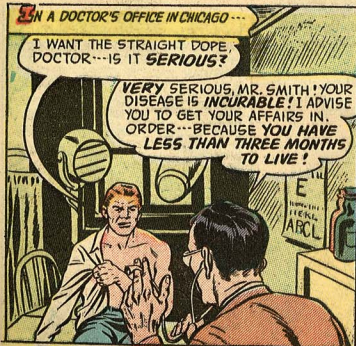
KILLER FRANKIE BOLL'S FATE WAS A STRANGE ONE! THOUGH DEATH AND EVERLASTING TORMENT FACED HIM... AFTER A LIFETIME OF CRIME AND BLOODSHED... HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE! NO, HIS WAS A BRILLIANT AND EVIL MIND... CLEVER ENOUGH, HE THOUGHT, TO CHEAT...

THE ETERNAL FIRES!

IN A DOCTOR'S OFFICE IN CHICAGO...

I WANT THE STRAIGHT DOPE, DOCTOR... IS IT **SERIOUS?**

VERY SERIOUS, MR. SMITH! YOUR DISEASE IS INCURABLE! I ADVISE YOU TO GET YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER... BECAUSE YOU HAVE LESS THAN THREE MONTHS TO LIVE!



ABOARD AN EASTBOUND PLANE...

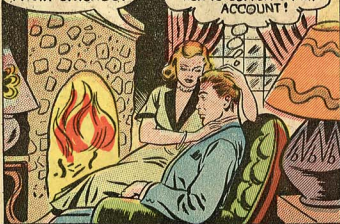
THREE MONTHS TO LIVE! WHY DID IT HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME, FRANKIE BOLL... WITH EVERYTHING TO LIVE FOR! GOOD THING I WAS SMART ENOUGH TO GO TO A CHICAGO DOCTOR UNDER A PHONEY NAME... BECAUSE IF THE MOB GOT WIND OF THIS, THERE'D BE TROUBLE! **NOBODY MUST KNOW!**



LATER, IN THE GANG CHIEF'S PALATIAL HOME...

WHY SO GLUM, DEAR? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN YOURSELF SINCE YOU GOT BACK FROM CHICAGO!

HOW CAN I TELL...HER? SHE'S THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WHO LOVES ME...AND I DON'T WANT HER TO SUFFER ON MY ACCOUNT!



YES, THOUGH FRANKIE BOLL WAS THE MYSTERIOUS HAND BEHIND THE NEW YORK UNDERWORLD, HIS LOVELY YOUNG WIFE KNEW ABSOLUTELY NOTHING OF HIS CRIMINAL LIFE!

SOME OF YOUR BUSINESS ASSOCIATES CALLED WHILE YOU WERE GONE, DARLING! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT...THEY ALL LOOK LIKE SUCH HOODLUMS!

YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS, SWEETHEART...THEY'RE OKAY!



BUT THE NEXT DAY, IN THE OFFICE FROM WHICH FRANKIE DIRECTED HIS RUTHLESS OPERATIONS...

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU GUYS THAT YOU'RE **NOT** TO COME TO MY HOUSE...**EVER!** THE NEXT GUY WHO DOES GETS A **BULLET** FOR HIS TROUBLE...**GET ME?**

SURE, BOSS...**SURE!** WE DIDN'T MEAN NO HARM! YOU'RE AWFUL TOUCHY LATELY!



PLEASE CHEER UP, DARLING... YOU'RE SO BLUE ANYBODY WOULD THINK YOU WERE FACING THE...OH, SOMETHING LIKE THE FIRES OF **HADES!**

DON'T TALK THAT WAY! I CAN'T STAND IT! **GET OUT!** LEAVE ME ALONE! I'VE GOT TO THINK!



SHE'S...RIGHT! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! I'M GOING TO DIE...AND I HAVEN'T GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN **AFTERWARD!** THAT'S NOT LIKE ME...I ALWAYS PLAN IN ADVANCE! I'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT...I'VE GOT TO!



That night...

I THINK YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR, DEAR...YOU'RE NOT LOOKING WELL, AND YOU'VE BEEN SO TERRIBLY **GLOOMY!**

WHO WOULDN'T BE...WHEN EVERY MINUTE BRINGS ME CLOSER TO...**THE END!**



IF THERE IS A DEVIL, THEN I DON'T STAND A **CHANCE!** BUT MAYBE IF I CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM SOMEHOW...MAYBE WE CAN MAKE A **DEAL!**

AT YOUR SERVICE, MR. BOLL!



A5 THE ODOR OF SULPHUR AND BRIMSTONE FILLED THE ROOM...

Y-YOU!
BUT I
...I...

YOU ACT **SURPRISED**, MR. BOLL...AND YET DEEP DOWN, YOU HAVE ALWAYS **KNOWN** THAT I EXISTED! BUT NOW TO BUSINESS! YOU HAVE AN **OFFER** TO MAKE ME?

WELL, THAT IS...LOOK, I'M GOING TO DIE **SOON**! I DON'T THINK I GOT MUCH OF A CHANCE WHEN I COME UP FOR JUDGMENT, AND...

THAT'S RIGHT...YOU HAVE **NO CHANCE!** YOUR SOUL IS **BLACK WITH SIN!**

I KNOW, I KNOW...DON'T RUB IT IN! BUT WE CAN MAKE A **DEAL**, CAN'T WE? I'VE GOT MONEY...**MILLIONS!** TAKE IT...TAKE IT ALL!

WHAT NEED HAVE I OF MONEY? AS FOR YOUR SOUL...THAT WILL BE MINE IN TIME! IN SHORT, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BARGAIN WITH!

PLEASE, SATAN...I'LL DO **ANYTHING!** I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TERRIFIED OF **FIRE**...EVER SINCE I WAS A KID! YOU GOTTA GIVE ME A BREAK...YOU GOTTA!

PERHAPS! YOU SEE, I VISITED YOU FOR A **PURPOSE**...BECAUSE AS A MOB LEADER, YOU CAN DO **ME** A FAVOR! IF YOU ORDER IT, **RIVAL** MOBSTERS CAN BE SENT TO AN **EARLY DEATH!** IF THEY DIED **NOW**, THEIR SOULS WOULD BE **MINE**...BUT IF THEY LIVE OUT THEIR NORMAL LIVES THEY MIGHT **REPENT**, THEREBY **ESCAPING ME!**

YOU MEAN...IF I START A GANG WAR...YOU'LL GIVE ME A **BREAK**? SURE, I GET IT...AND I'LL **DO IT!**

FINE! WE HAVE STRUCK A **BARGAIN!**

THE NEXT DAY, AS FRANKIE OUTLINED HIS PLAN TO HIS UNDERLINGS...

BUT BOSS, HOW COME YOU'RE ASKIN' US TO MOVE IN AGAINST THE **FRANCETTI MOB NOW?** I THOUGHT WE WUZ GONNA WAIT!

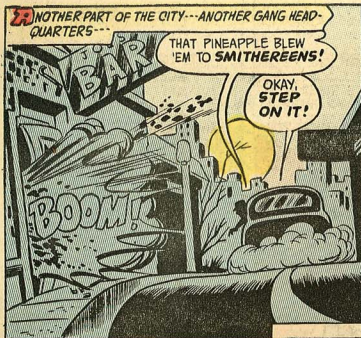
BECAUSE THE **TIME'S RIGHT!** WHAT'S A MATTER, **ROCCO**...LOSING YOUR NERVE?

A5 A NIGHT-LONG MASSACRE COMMENCED...

GET 'EM ALL, BOYS...**ALL!**

OH-HH!





ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY---ANOTHER GANG HEAD-
QUARTERS---

THAT PINEAPPLE BLEW
'EM TO SMITHEREENS!

OKAY,
STEP
ON IT!

SUIT YOURSELF! BUT REMEMBER, THE
FLAMING LAVA PITS ARE **WAITING!**

I-I GOT NO CHOICE! OKAY,
YOU WIN---I'LL FIGURE OUT
SOMETHING!

YOU HEARD ME, LOUIS---I
SAID GET **ALL** THE BOYS
TOGETHER AND MEET ME
AT 11 TONIGHT IN THE
ABANDONED WARE-
HOUSE ON MYRTLE
STREET!

AT SATAN'S NEXT VISIT---

YOU HAVE DONE **WELL**,
FRANKIE! NOW I HAVE BUT
ONE MORE REQUEST---THE
LAST! YOU MUST SEE TO
IT THAT I DON'T LOSE THE
SOULS OF YOUR
MEN!

YOU MEAN---YOU
WANT ME TO
DOUBLE-CROSS
MY OWN BOYS?
NIX---I CAN'T
DO THAT!

Then, WORKING SWIFTLY---

THIS'LL DO IT! BY THE TIME THE
BOYS GET HERE, I'LL HAVE THE
JOINT BRISTLING WITH **T.N.T.**!
AND ONCE THEY'RE INSIDE---
CURTAINS!

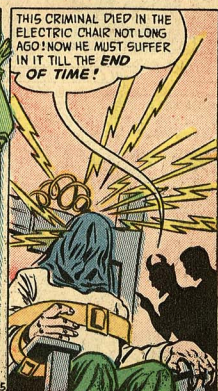
WHEN THE LAST OF THE MOBSTERS HAD GONE INTO THE
WAREHOUSE---

THAT---DOES IT!

WHEN FRANKIE ARRIVED HOME--- YES, SWEETHEART!

I'VE BEEN WAITING
UP FOR YOU! WHY,
YOU'RE **SMILING!**

YOU SEE, I'VE BEEN
HAVING A LOT OF
TROUBLE LATELY,
BUT EVERYTHING'S
ALL RIGHT---**NOW!**



I-I GET IT! BUT LOOK... I'M GONNA DIE PAINFULLY! I GOT AN INCURABLE DISEASE... SOMETIMES THE PAIN GETS SO BAD I CAN'T STAND IT! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO FOR ME?

FEAR NOT! ONLY THOSE WHO ARE DEAD UPON ARRIVING HERE ARE BEYOND MY HELP... BUT YOU WILL ARRIVE HERE ALIVE! STAY WITH ME NOW IF YOU WISH IT... AND LIVE COMFORTABLY AS AN EMISSARY! AGREED?



YOU MEAN... JUST DISAPPEAR OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH FOREVER? BUT I CAN'T DO THAT... MY WIFE'D GO BATTY LOOKING FOR ME! NO, I WANT TO DIE REGULAR... SO SHE CAN INHERIT MY DOUGH QUICKLY! C'MON, TAKE ME BACK TO EARTH!



AFTER A SWIFT AND DIZZING RETURN...

SINCE YOU WISH IT THIS WAY, IT SHALL BE DONE... BUT YOU MAY REGRET IT! I WILL PLACE YOU IN A COMA... EXACTLY LIKE DEATH TO ANY MORTAL DOCTOR, EXCEPT THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR, SEE, AND FEEL EVERYTHING... THOUGH UNABLE TO MOVE! AFTER YOUR BURIAL, I WILL HAVE YOU BROUGHT TO ME IN HADES! NOW... PREPARE!



MOMENTS LATER...

FRANKIE! WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER? OH, NO! HE LOOKS...



AFTER THE DOCTOR'S ARRIVAL...

HE'S DEAD, MRS. BOLL... THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE!

OH, FRANKIE, FRANKIE! WHY DID IT HAVE TO HAPPEN TO YOU... THE MOST WONDERFUL GUY IN THE WORLD!



NEXT DAY... IN A FINE FUNERAL CHAPEL...

HAVE YOU DECIDED YET, MRS. BOLL... AS TO WHAT KIND OF FUNERAL YOU WISH?

NOT A REGULAR BURIAL... I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF MY DARLING LYING IN A COLD, WET GRAVE! I'VE DECIDED TO HAVE HIM CREMATED... AND KEEP HIS ASHES IN AN URN NEAR ME ALWAYS!



FRANKIE HEARD AND SAW, AND FELT... EACH AGONIZING MOMENT WHICH BROUGHT HIM CLOSER TO THE CREMATION OVEN! BUT THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO!

I-I CAN'T SPEAK! I CAN'T... STOP THEM?





OKAY, ED---TURN UP THE HEAT! HE'LL BE ASHES IN A FEW MOMENTS!

CLANG!



AND WHEN THE FLAMES HAD DONE THEIR WORK---THE SPIRIT OF FRANKIE BOLL SPUN DOWNWARDS---



SATAN! SHE--- SHE---

I KNOW! UNFORTUNATE, BUT SINCE YOU ARRIVED HERE DEAD---THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE MADE A DEAL!

YOU SHOULD HAVE REMAINED HERE WHEN I ASKED YOU! BUT NOW, SINCE YOU HAVE TRULY DIED ON EARTH--- I MUST OBEY THE INFERNAL LAWS!

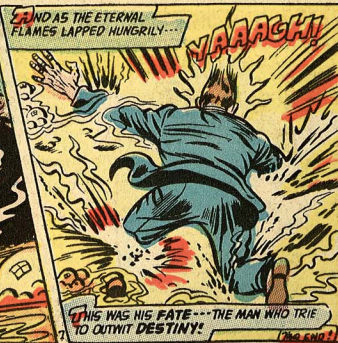
AWAY WITH HIM! TO THE LAVA PITS---FOR ETERNITY!

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T!



YOU CAN'T DO THIS! STOP! PLEASE! PLEASE!

THE MASTER... HAS SPOKEN!



AND AS THE ETERNAL FLAMES LAPPED HUNGRILY---

YAAAGH!

THIS WAS HIS FATE---THE MAN WHO TRIE TO OUTWIT DESTINY!

THE END!

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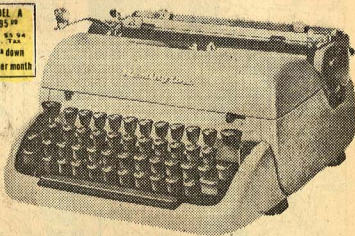
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"Hey YOU SKINNY You look like SOMETHING THE CAT DRAGGED IN!"

the boys yelled as I dragged myself into the gym, says Jowett Pupul, Gleason R. Cleveland. Then I gained 70 lbs.

and made the football team.

GLEASON
CLEVELAND
AFTER JOWETT
TRAINING
160 lbs. of
Muscle

CLEVELAND
BEFORE
90 lb.
Skeleton

Now wouldn't YOU
Like To Have A New
Body Like Mine? I added

7 INCHES to my **CHEST**
3 1/2 INCHES to each **ARM**
and to the rest of my
body in proportion as
YOU can

Yours *John Sill*
UTAH

Let's go, young fellow,
Now YOU give me

10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR HOME

LIKE SLIM JOHN SILL DID
and I'll give YOU a New
HE-MAN BODY as I gave
MANY Thousands like You

NO! I don't care how skinny or
flabby you are. I'll make you
OVER by the SAME method I turned
myself from a wreck to the strongest
of the strong. Why can't I do for you
what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of
skinny fellows like You?

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES

Gain Pounds, INCHES FAST!

YES! You'll see INCHES of MIGHTY
MUSCLE added to your ARMS and
CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS
broadened. From head to heels, you'll
gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED. You'll be
A WINNER in EVERYTHING you tackle.

ONLY MY
5-WAY PROGRESSIVE
POWER SYSTEM
BUILDS YOU
5-WAYS FAST
SO YOU
SAVE YEARS
AND
DOLLARS

GEORGE
F. JOWETT
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Perfect
Man Contest

like John
BECOME A
MOVIE STAR
HE-MAN

Come on, PAL, NOW YOU ^{do} as I did
in 10 EASY MINUTES of FUN a day
Get a NEW HE-MAN BODY
For Your OLD SKELETON FRAME!

I GAINED 60 LBS.

of SHAPELY MIGHTY MUSCLES

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as I have just done.

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was a 125 lb.
Skinny
Weakling

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